

Remarks

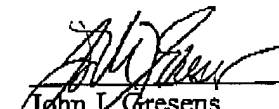
This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2004. In the referenced Action, The Examiner has requested restriction of examination to one of five groups: Group I comprising claim 12 drawn to glycerol, Group II comprising claim 13 drawn to sorbitol, Group III comprising claim 13 drawn to mannitol, Group IV comprising claim 11 drawn to sucrose; and Group V comprising claim 19. Applicant respectfully elects V comprising claim 12 drawn to the first product which is glycerol, with traverse. The basis for Applicant's traversal is that they do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's logic imposing the restriction requirement. Further, the Examiner has not explained why searching all five groups together would be unduly burdensome.

Favorable consideration of all claims pending herein is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE